



U.S. House of Representatives

Committee on the Judiciary

F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., Chairman

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News Advisory

For immediate release
May 11, 2005

Contact: Jeff Lungren/Terry Shawn
202-225-2492

Immigration Subcommittee Hearing on Rep. Dreier's Legislation Establishing a Tamper-Proof Social Security Card

What: Legislative Hearing on H.R. 98, the "Illegal Immigration Enforcement and Social Security Protection Act of 2005"

Who: Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security, and Claims – Rep. John N. Hostettler (R-Ind.), Chairman

When: 2:00 p.m., Thursday, May 12, 2005

Where: 2141 Rayburn Building

The Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 ("IRCA") made it unlawful for employers to knowingly hire or employ aliens not eligible to work and required employers to check the identity and work eligibility documents of all new employees. This was designed to end the "job magnet" for illegal aliens and thus finally control illegal immigration into the U.S. If the documents provided by an employee reasonably appear on their face to be genuine, the employer has met its document review obligation.

PROBLEMS...

- ✓ The easy availability of counterfeit documents has severely undercut IRCA's effectiveness. Fake documents are produced by the millions and can be obtained cheaply.
- ✓ The current system both benefits unscrupulous employers who do not mind hiring illegal aliens but want to show that they have met legal requirements and harms employers who don't want to hire illegal aliens but have no choice but to accept documents they know have a good likelihood of being counterfeit.

THIS LEGISLATION...

- ⇒ Requires each Social Security card to include an encrypted machine-readable strip that can be used by employers to engage in the verification process, to have security features designed to prevent tampering, counterfeiting, or duplication, and to have a digitized photograph.
- ⇒ Requires an individual to obtain a Social Security card meeting these requirements and display such card to his employer before beginning employment with any employer.

WITNESSES: Hon. David Dreier (R-Calif.); Hon. Silvestre Reyes (D-Tex.); Mr. T.J. Bonner, President, National Border Patrol Council; and Mr. Marc Rotenberg, Executive Director, Electronic Privacy Information Center.

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